

Message Text

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TAGS: EGEN, CA

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON EXPROPRIATION BY
GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA OF AMERICAN-OWNED
PROPERTY

REF: CONGEN TEL 084

1. IN MOST UNUSUAL STEP, THE HALIFAX CHRONICLE-
HERALD HAS PUBLISHED A PAGE-LENGTH EDITORIAL ON
ITS FRONT PAGE ISSUE OF APRIL 23 CONCERNING THE
EXPROPRIATION MOVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NOVA SCOTIA
DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. THE EDITORIAL IS HEADED QUOTE
ILL-CONSIDERED MOVE ENDQUOTE.
2. THE EDITORIAL OPENS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE GOVERNMENT
OF NOVA SCOTIA SHOULD ACT WITHOUT DELAY TO REVERSE
THE ANNOUNCED INTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS
AND FOREST TO EXPROPRIATE THE SOUTH SHORE PROPERTY
OF MRS. DOROTHY WOOD, AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, ON THE
SCANT INFORMATION SO FAR MADE PUBLIC BY LANDS AND
FORESTS MINISTER DR. MAURICE DELORY THIS APPEARS
TO BE A CAPRICIOUS ACTION, TAKEN ON SHORT-TERM
POLITICAL GROUNDS THAT MUST DAMAGE RELATIONS BETWEEN
THIS PROVINCE AND THE UNITED STATES. ENDQUOTE
3. FURTHER ON THE NEWSPAPER GOES ON: QUOTE IF THIS
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ACTION WAS PROPOSED TO PROTECT THEPROPERTY FROM

BEING USED FOR SOME AS YET UNDISCLOSED, BUT UNDESIRABLE PURPOSES, THEN SURELY SOME OTHER, LESS INFLAMMATORY AND DAMAGING TO NOVA SCOTIA MEANS COULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED. NOVA SCOTIANS OWN PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES. THEIR HOLDINGS ARE NOW PLACED IN JEOPARDY BY AN ILL-CONCEIVED ACTION THAT WAS, EVIDENTLY, ARBITRARILY ANNOUNCED AFTER A YEAR DURING WHICH THERE WAS NO CONTACT WITH THE PROPERTY HOLDER. OTHER AMERICANS OWN PROPERTY IN NOVA SCOTIA . DO THEY NOW HOLD THEIR LANDS, PAY TAXES AND CARRY ON THEIR ROLE AS RESPONSIBLE AND OFTEN MANY-YEAR RESIDENTS SUBJECT TO THE CAPRICE OF POLITICAL WINDS. END QUOTE

4. FURTHER ON THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES: QUOTE THE PROPOSED TAKING OF THE PROPERTY OF MRS. WOOD IS A MURKY BUSINESS AT BEST. THERE HAS BEEN NO FULL DISCLOSURE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE FACTS, IF ANY, SUPPORTING THE ACTION, NOR HAS ANY PUBLIC INTEREST BEEN IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD JUSTIFY GIVING NOVA SCOTIA A BLACK EYE ACROSS THE UNITED STATES. NOVA SCOTIA SPENDS ENORMOUS SUMS OF MONEY YEARLY ADVERTISING FOR AMERICANS TO VISIT THIS PROVINCE. NOVA SCOTIA SEEKS INVESTMENT CAPITAL AND LOOKS TO THE UNITED STATES. THE ACTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS IS TO EFFECTIVELY TELL THE AMERICANS THAT THEY WILL HAVE FEW RIGHTS AND LITTLE PROTECTION IF THEY PURCHASE PROPERTY OR INVEST IN THIS PROVINCE. FURTHERMORE THE ACTIONS TELLS AMERICANS THAT THE LENGTH OF TENURE, THE PROTECTIONS OF THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY, THE PAYMENT OF TAXES AND THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ORDINARY DUTIES OF THE REASONABLE PERSON WILL HAVE NO BEARING. END QUOTE

5. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: QUOTE THOSE NOVA SCOTIANS WHO OWN PROPERTY IN THIS PROVINCE SHOULD BE JOINED BY THOSE WHO HOLD PROPERTY IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS IN DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT ADVISE THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND FORESTS THAT THIS DECISION BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ALL FACTORS INVOLVED ARE GIVEN THE MOST CAREFUL AND RESPONSIBLE ATTENTION. END QUOTE

6. AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT BY THE CONSULATE GENERAL, THE HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD IS A CONSISTENTLY PRO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER WITH A GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE EDITORIAL POLICY.

7. ON APRIL 20 THE HALIFAX MAIL-STAR (A SISTER PAPER UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE CHRONICLE-HERALD UNDER THE SAME OWNERSHIP AND EDITORIAL POLICY) RAN A FEATURE ARTICLE BY A LOCAL WRITER, BILL SMITH, WHICH ALSO DEALT WITH THE EXPROPRIATION. HIS ARTICLE IS HEADED WHY THIS GIANT LAND TAKEOVER?

8. SMITH TAKES MUCH THE SAME LINE AS THE FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL. HE SAYS FOR INSTANCE QUOTE ON THE FACE OF IT, THE SUDDEN ANNOUNCEMENT BY LANDS AND FORESTS MINISTER DE. MAURICE DELORY THAT 5, 462 ACRES OF LAND WILL BE

EXPROPRIATED FROM A PROPERTY HOLDER IN QUEENS COUNTY OPENS MORE QUESTION THAN IT ANSWERS. WHAT IS THE COMPELLING PUBLIC INTEREST THAT BROOKS NO DELAY? HAVE ALL OTHER AVENUES TO THE PURPOSE OF THE DEPARTMENT BEEN EXHAUSTED? FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT ARE THE PURPOSES? IT HAPPENS THAT THE PROPERTY OWNER IS AMERICAN. IT ALSO HAPPENS THAT THE PROPERTY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PROTECTED FROM DEVELOPMENT, AND IN ITS NATURAL STATE. THE PROPERTY IS ON THE QUEENS COUNTY TAX POLLS. IS IT INTENDED TO REIMBURSE THE COUNTY FOR LOSS OF REVENUE?
END QUOTE

9. FURTHER ON SMITH SAYS QUOTE SHOULD THE PUBLIC BE INFORMED WHETHER IT IS INTENDED TO TAKE THE PROPERTY OF OTHER AMERICANS WHO OWN LAND IN NOVA SCOTIA? WHAT OF BURL IVES SO RECENTLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED
END QUOTE. BURL IVES WAS IN CAPE BRETON LAST WEEK TO VISIT PROPERTY WHICH HE RECENTLY INHERITED. HE WAS GIVEN THE RED-CARPET TREATMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

10. SMITH CONCLUDES ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: QUOTE SURELY THERE ARE IN THE LEGISLATURE AND IN THE GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE WHO WILL CALL FOR FULL DISCLOSURE IN THIS MATTER, AND, IN ADDITION, PRUDENT CAUTION IN ASCERTAINING THAT THE LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS ARE WELL GRASPED, AS WELL AS THE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGES WHICH MAY BE EVIDENT IN THE DEPARTMENT? ONE CAN EXPECT LONG, SUSTAINED APPLAUSE FROM THE SUPER-NATIONALISTS AND THOSE WHO ARE DEDICATED TO THE END OF THE SYSTEM OF PRIVATE PROPERTY. BUT THERE ARE OTHERS IN NOVA SCOTIA, INCLUDING MANY WITH PROPERTY INTERESTS OF THEIR OWN, BOTH HERE AND IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS
ENDQUOTE.
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